

Remarks

Claims 1-67 are pending in the application: all claims stand rejected. In response to Applicants Amendment and Response After Final, an Advisory Action was issued stating that the proposed amendments would not be entered because they raised new issues that would require further search and are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal.

Applicants are submitting with this Supplemental Amendment and Response a Request for Continued Examination. As a result thereof, the Patent Office must enter and consider the prior amendment and response. Additionally, by the foregoing amendment, Applicants have further amended the claims by incorporating the limitations of original claims 8 and 63 into claims 1 and 60, respectively, to specify a maximum relative to the surface area of the susceptor that is covered by the adhesive: thereby more narrowly and specifically defining that which they believe to be their invention. In following, Applicants have amended claims 8 and 63 to specify an even smaller surface area of the susceptor that may be covered by the adhesive, support for which may be found in Paragraph 054, at page 20, of the specification.

In reiteration of and elucidation on the prior response and in light of the foregoing amendments, Applicants wish to point out that the present invention is directed to fastening devices wherein only a limited portion of the susceptor, thus the bonding surface area, is covered by the adhesive and, even then, the adhesive is applied in a very limited and restricted manner or design. Specifically, Applicants have created a fastening device whose bond, once formed, can be reversed, thus de-bonded, by induction heating without adversely affecting the surface of either bonded substrate. This benefit is achieved by minimizing the surface area covered by the adhesive and applying the adhesive in small discrete domains and/or thin, continuous or discontinuous, beads, and the like, while avoiding or at least keeping to a minimum large domains or areas of continuous adhesive coverage.

Applicants' invention and teaching is contrary to what is shown and taught in the cited references. Specifically, the references all teach fastening devices wherein the adhesive covers all or substantially all of the susceptor. This is opposite to the teaching of the present invention which is to lessen or minimize the coverage so as to facilitate the reversibility of the bond by induction heating. Thus far, the Patent Office has given no significance to the restriction on surface area coverage and the limitations relative to the manner in which the adhesive is applied to the susceptor, i.e., the fact that the adhesive is capable of having inscribed circles of a defined diameter or less in a minimum surface area of the adhesive; yet, this is the very essence of Applicants' invention. It is these very factors which enable Applicants to make an induction activatable and reversible bond.

Should the Patent Office reject the amended claims, Applicants respectfully request more clarity and specificity of the basis for and nature of the rejection. In the Final Rejection, the Patent Office stated "...the Examiner respectfully submits that applicants do not appear to understand the rationale behind the relied upon prior art rejection..." In response thereto, Applicants admitted that the rejection was unclear and non-specific and requested guidance; however, none

was provided in the Advisory Action. Thus, to some extent, Applicants are unable to appeal inasmuch as they do not fully understand the rejections from which the appeal is to be taken. Furthermore, in the Response and Amendment After Final, Applicants fully responded to several bases of rejection: specifically, that rejection pertaining to duplicate claims. Applicants believe that they fully and unquestionably addressed that rejection; yet, no mention of that is made in the Advisory Action and Applicants do not know whether this rejection remains or has been withdrawn. Applicants respectfully request that the next action clearly and succinctly address each matter and advise whether the rejections are sustained or withdrawn.

Applicants believe the invention, as currently presented is fully patentable over the art of record and requests prompt and favorable action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: 4/30/2003

APPENDIX 1

Claims marked to show the amendments.

Claims 1, 8, 60 and 63 have been amended as follows:

1. (twice amended) A fastening device for promoting the assembly and adherence of associated pieces upon exposure to electromagnetic energy, comprising a susceptor sheet and a heat-activatable adhesive on at least one surface of said susceptor, wherein (a) when a test surface congruent in shape to the susceptor surface is placed onto the outward side of the adhesive, at least about 35% of the area of adhesive in contact with said test surface can have inscribed within it circles having a diameter of from about 1/2" to about 0.001" and (d) from about 0.001% to about 65% of the area of said test surface when placed on the inward side of the adhesive is in contact with said inward side of the adhesive.

8. (amended) The fastening device according to Claim 7 wherein (d) from about 0.001% to about 30% [65%] of the area of the test surface is in contact with the inward side of the adhesive.

60. (twice amended) A fastening device for promoting the assembly and adherence of associated pieces upon exposure to electromagnetic energy, comprising a susceptor sheet and a heat-activatable adhesive on at least one surface of said susceptor, wherein (c) when a test surface congruent in shape to the susceptor surface is placed against the inward side of the adhesive, at least about 35% of the area of the inward side of the adhesive in contact with said test surface can have inscribed within it circles having a diameter of 1/2" to 0.001" and (d) from about 0.001% to about 65% of the area of said test surface is in contact with the inward side of the adhesive.

63. (amended) The fastening device according to Claim 62 wherein (d) from about 0.001% to about 30%[65%] of the area of the test surface is in contact with the inward side of the adhesive.